

REMARKS

The present case now has eleven (11) claims, Claims 1-9, 23, and 24, with Claims 1, 6, 23, and 24 being independent claims. Claims 1-4, 6, 7, 9 are rejected. Claims 5 and 8 have been indicated as allowable. Claim 23 and 24 are new. The Applicant notes that the new claims were paid for in the previous response to the final office action.

Claims 6 and 7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,176,213 to Van Linden. Claim 9 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Van Linden. The Applicant has amended Claim 6 to indicate the use of “top and bottom sides with respective ports.” The Applicant believes that the amendment overcomes the rejection.

Claims 1-4, 6, 7, and 9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,595,833 to Gardner, et al. Gardner was described as teaching a fuel cell receptacle with a plurality of manifolds. A plurality of fuel stacks (24) was defined as a stack having individual ports, *i.e.*, distribution members on both opposite ends.

The Examiner suggested that amendments made herein would overcome Gardner. The Applicant thanks the Examiner for his comments. The suggested amendments have been made. The Applicant notes that the amendments have been made for the purposes of clarity.

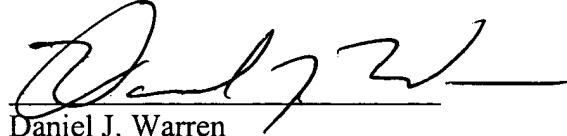
The Applicant further traverses the rejection of Claim 2 for the reasons given above and for the reason that Gardner does not appear to show ports positioned on the corners of the fuel cells.

The Applicant further traverses the rejection of dependant Claim 3 for the reasons given above and for the reason that Gardner does not appear to show ports on both sides of the fuel cell.

CONCLUSION

The Applicant believes that it has responded to each matter raised in the Office Action. Any questions may be directed to the undersigned at 404.853.8028.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Daniel J. Warren', is written over a horizontal line.

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